



Empire

Celebrating Mark Beissinger

Perry Jess Carter

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NYU Abu Dhabi



Empire in Mass Politics

Commemorating Loss



PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

RESTORING NAMES THAT HONOR AMERICAN GREATNESS

The White House | January 20, 2025

Commemorating Loss



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|

British people are proud of colonialism and the British Empire, poll finds

The Empire's history is not widely taught in detail in British schools

[Jon Stone](#) • Thursday 21 January 2016 12:13 GMT • [Comments](#)



Commemorating Loss



Men do spend more time than women thinking about the Roman Empire — and World War II

HONOR AMERICAN GREATNESS

The White House

| Jan 21, 2016

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Men do spend more time than

PRESIDENT WILSON SAID AT THE TREATY OF SEVRES

These lands belong to Armenia



**EXISTENCE OF PEOPLE, نازاره ضروریه،
NECESSITY OF LAND, بمان النعوب می توجهور،**

**are proud of colonialism
Empire, poll finds**

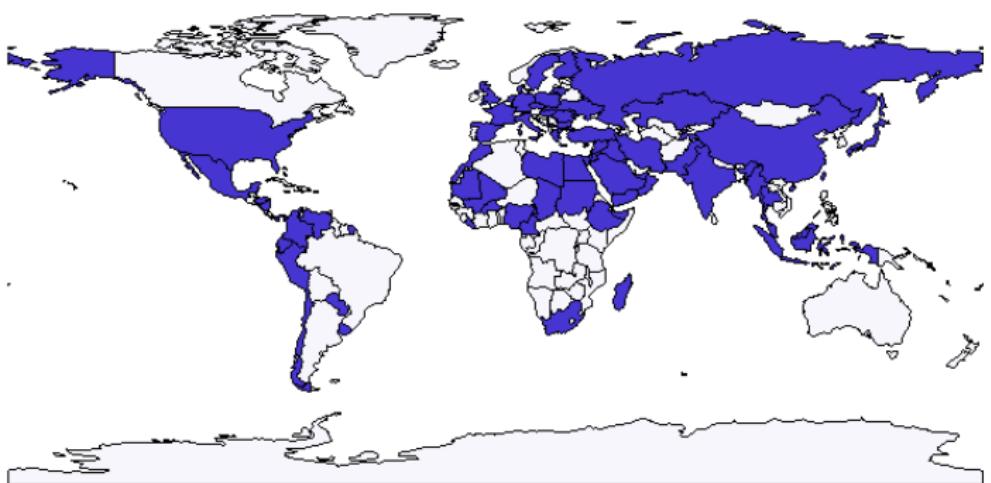
in detail in British schools

Comments





Loss as a Global Phenomenon





The Intersection of Empire and Loss in Popular Narratives

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4. The [1921 treaty of] Kars was the problem ... the Russians' 11th army and Lenin betrayed us.



Research Agenda at a Glance

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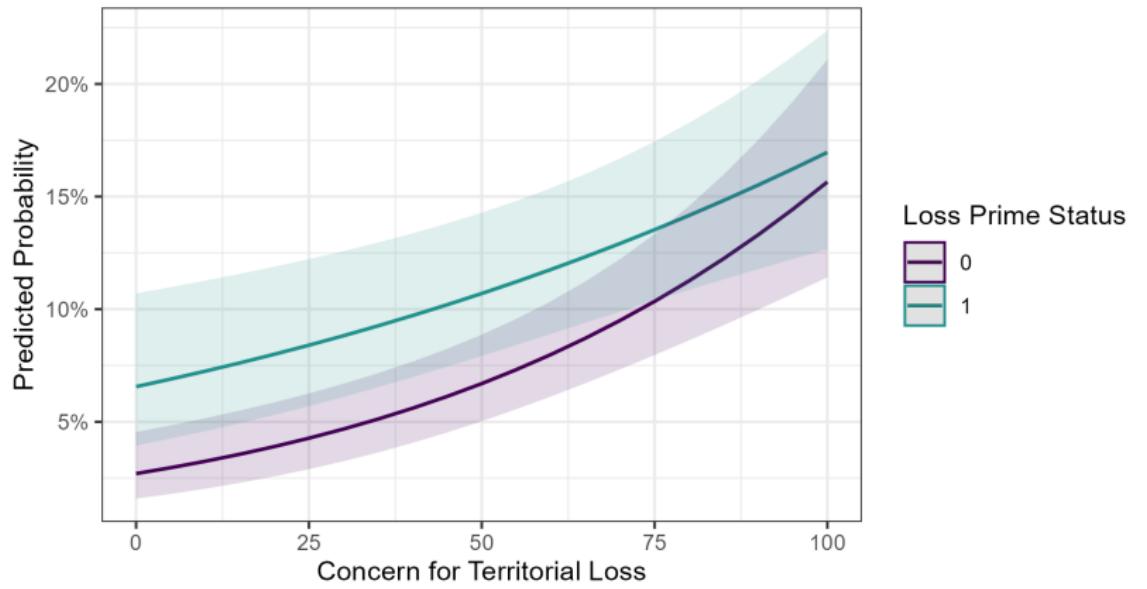
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- **Ongoing:** Do the same mechanisms underpin the politics of loss in peripheral states and former metropoles?

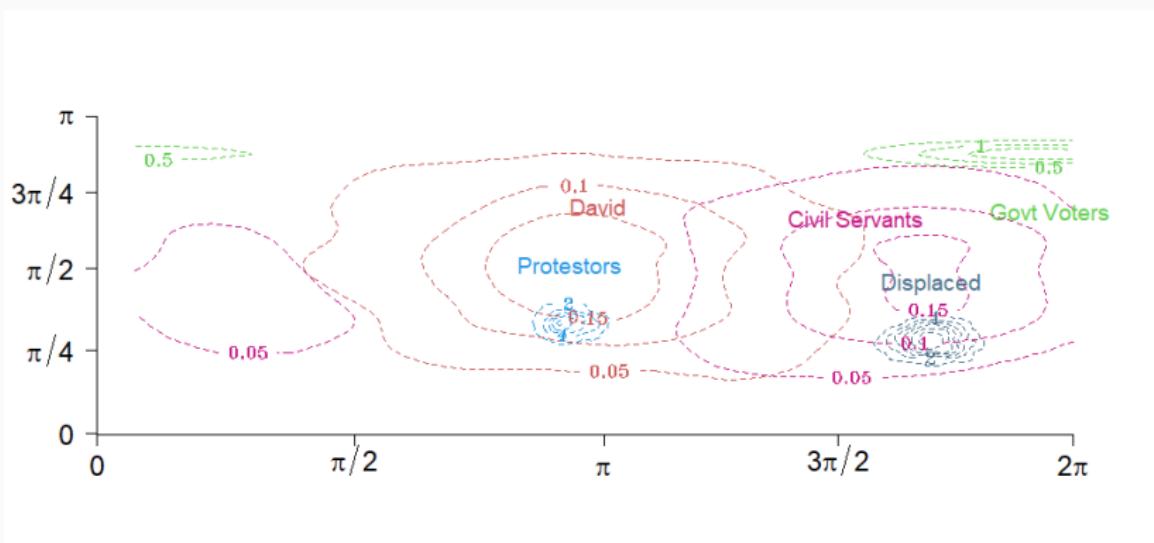
Origins and Durability of Popular Attitudes



Elite Manipulation?



Social Networks as a Narrative Channel





Implications for the Study of Empire

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 - But this may be changing in some places as norms shift.
- Imperial narratives have a life of their own and persist in the absence of concerted promotion.
- The politics of loss is emotional and social more than attitudinal → study requires attention to social reproduction of narratives.



Future Directions

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- How do we measure 'imperial thinking'?
- While some historical memories are promoted by mass education, the origins and durability of others remain poorly understood.
- Need for a better understanding of how emotional responses and causal stories of the past interact to shape political behavior.
- The puzzle of elite invocation – beyond instrumentalism?



Thank you!